

# THE ITCHAN KALA OF KHIVA

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The inner town (Itchan Kala) of

the ancient Silk Road oasis of Khiva has been unchanged for centuries. Surrounded by 40ft-high snake walls that writhe around the city, its labyrinth of narrow lanes adorned with blue and aquamarine tile mosaics is a living museum for you to explore.

On the Oxus or Amu Darya River in deepest Central Asia, Khiva was ancient when Alexander the Great seized it in 329 BC. It survived the depredations of Arabs in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Mongols in the 12<sup>th</sup>, Tamerlane in the 13<sup>th</sup>. The Khanate of Khiva continued to flourish on the Silk Road until conquered by the Russians in the 19<sup>th</sup>. Today in Uzbekistan, it remains as the best-preserved of the ancient oases of the Silk Road, yet unknown to the outside world. We look forward to visiting this ancient place once again. (*Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #118* Photo ©Jack Wheeler)

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